(iii) making available necessary inputs for the domestic economy in accordance with the Government's developmental priorities.

State funding of elections

*66. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being contemplated towards effecting electoral reforms as declared by the new ruling party in their election manifesto issued on the eve of the last Lok Sabha Elections, especially State funding of elections; and

(b) whether it would be possible to enforce State funding of elections for the Legislative Assemblies where elections are due shortly; if so, what are the broad features of the relevant scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Various proposals for introducing greater purity in the electoral process including the question of State funding of elections to reduce money power are under earnest consideration. Details are yet to be worked out.

(b) No, Sir. This is unlikely.

Exempting India from 'Super 301' provisions by the United States

*57. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the outgoing U.S. Ambassador, Dr. John Hubbard expressing the belief that Bush Administration would remove India from the trade hit list under 'Super 301' provisions;

(b) if so, what is Government's information in the matter; and

(c) whether Government propose to negotiate bilaterally with the United States on 'Super 301'?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India is aware of reports appearing in the press to this effect.

(b) Government of India has no information regarding any move by the U.S. Government in this matter.

(c) Government of India has repeatedly made it clear that it will not participate in any negotiations, bilateral or otherwise under threat of retaliation.

Service facilities for L.I.C. policy-holders

*68. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation has increased its business manifold in recent years;

(b) if so, whether the policy holders have been provided with adequate and satisfying services;

(c) whether the present staff is adequate to meet the increasing demands of the policy holders;

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, whether more staff is being recruited to meet the increased demands; and

(e) if not, how the Life Insurance Corporation proposes to provide satisfactory services to the policy holders?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The workload is assessed regularly and whenever there is increase in workload additional staff is recruited.

(e) Does not arise.